

June 22-24, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Legal News: Motorcycle relay for drug courts is subject of Court Stories video

"A phalanx of motorcyclists – including 52-1 District Court Judge Robert Bondy – were the center of attention as they rolled up to the 15th District Court in Ann Arbor. But even more riveting were the stories of recovery told by graduates of the 15th District's drug and sobriety court program, at the May 22 'All Rise America!' rally, a stop on a 3,500-mile cross-country relay in support of drug and sobriety courts."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Vroom! Cross-country "All Rise America!" motorcycle relay for drug courts is subject of new *Court Stories* video

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Fact finder's report slams Wayne County Judge McCree

"There is 'shame in the McCree game,' a fact finder concluded after judicial disciplinary hearings last month against embattled Wayne County Circuit Judge Wade McCree.... [Retired Judge Charles] Nelson's remarks in made the report dated June 23 and released Monday. McCree is accused of professional misconduct for having an extramarital affair with a woman who had a child support case in his court."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Judge: Wade McCree brought 'shame' to the bench

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Opinion on suspended Wayne County judge: 'A gross dereliction of judicial duties'

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Report finds 'shame in the Wade McCree game'

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Report finds 'shame in the McCree game'

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Report on Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wade McCree says there is "shame" in his game

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Bill helps control budgeting-by-lawsuit; Budgets should be decided by those elected to do the job, not by the courts

The editorial states "One of the first pieces of legislation that the Michigan Legislature should approve when it resumes regular sessions this fall is a bill that keeps courts out of local budgeting battles. The measure sets new limits on intra-governmental lawsuits, where one elected official may sue a governing board over its budget appropriations."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Stefani allowed to practice law in federal court

"Attorney Michael Stefani, who lost his law license for 30 days over his handling of the text message scandal that landed former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in jail, can practice law in Detroit federal court

again.... Stefani, whose license was suspended in 2012, had previously been cleared to practice in the state courts by the state Attorney Discipline Board."

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Veterans treatment court taking shape

"Military veterans will be sentenced to more than fines or jail time in a new Calhoun County court. Assigned to the District Court Veterans Treatment Court, prior military members will receive treatment for their wider problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues and lack of veteran's benefits."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Battle Creek Enquirer: Katherine Ambrose: Seeking mentors for veterans in need

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Calhoun County gearing up for new Veterans Treatment Court

[Full story](#)

The Alpena News: Plaque to honor Kelley at courthouse

"... [26th Circuit Chief] Judge Michael Mack, who has known [Frank] Kelley since Mack was a young child, received approval from the Alpena County Finance Committee to order a bronze plaque that will be placed on the wall near the entrance of circuit court, the same place Kelley spent many hour trying cases while serving as a young attorney in Alpena, before moving on to become the longest serving attorney general in Michigan's history."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Frank Kelley to be honored with plaque at Alpena courthouse

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Judge allows history of domestic violence to be discussed in Livingston County murder trial; Co-defendant has other convictions

"... Assistant Prosecutor Daniel Rose asked a Livingston County Circuit Court judge not to allow Antionette Bea Hix's attorney to mention co-defendant Mitchell Hall's 2000 and 2004 convictions for domestic violence because it did not involve Hix, who did not begin a relationship with Hall until 2007. Hall's convictions also include domestic violence against Hix in 2009 and 2010."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Foster care play highlights need for more homes in Genesee County

"The Genesee County Department of Human Services is putting on a play in an effort to attract more foster and adoptive parents. The play, which takes place at 8 p.m. Friday, June 28, and Saturday, June 29, at Bower Theater in Flint, is composed of different stories from youth in the foster care program in Genesee County."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Patient-to-patient sharing of medical-marijuana illegal, Michigan Supreme Court says

"The state Supreme Court said medical marijuana cannot be shared by registered users unless the provider is a licensed caregiver for the user. The ruling reversed a decision by a state Court of Appeals

panel that allowed patient-to-patient transfers. The state Supreme Court ruled that a charge of marijuana delivery be re-instated against Tony Allen Green in Barry County Circuit Court."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Return Trip: Former addict tells of 'long road back'

"Hers is a story of recovery and redemption, a harrowing true-life tale that stirred emotions among those who attended a fund-raising reception for The RESTORE Foundation June 3.... Retired Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick, now the director of The RESTORE Foundation, said [Shea's] success story is a testimony to the value of 'therapeutic jurisprudence,' which is at the heart of the drug court concept."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Editorial: Duggan should have pursued appeal

"Mike Duggan took himself out of the Detroit mayoral race in deciding not to ask the state Supreme Court to reverse an appellate court decision that he filed his nominating petitions too early. It's too bad. Duggan had a shot at prevailing in his argument that such a narrow reading of the law violates the spirit of the City Charter."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: States work with agencies to collect debts; Tight budgets have officials seeking overdue payments

"A growing number of states are expanding their relationships with private collection agencies to settle long-overdue court debts.... Arizona, California, Florida and Oregon are among other states with growing efforts for court debt collection through private agencies."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: One year later: Michigan juvenile lifers, victim families seek answers from Supreme Court ruling

"One year after such sentences were declared unconstitutional, more than 350 Michigan prisoners serving mandatory life terms for violent crimes they committed as minors remain in legal limbo. Lower courts and lawmakers are still debating whether they deserve a second look -- and perhaps a second chance -- as adults."

[Full story](#)

The News-Herald/Southgate: LINCOLN PARK: Court merger with Ecorse, River Rouge to be finished by end of month

"About 16 months after state legislation mandating court consolidation in a number of districts was signed into law, the combination of 25th District Court and 26th District Court is almost complete. The court was closed Wednesday through Friday last week and will be shuttered for the same period this week to facilitate the change. It is expected to reopen by the end of this week."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Nominations for Gage Judicial Excellence Award being accepted

"The Michigan Judges Association (MJA) is accepting nominations for its Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award. Given annually, the award recognizes current or former Circuit or Court of Appeals judges who have demonstrated exemplary service by excelling in trial and docket management, legal scholarship, and contributions to the profession and the community."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Courage recognized: SAVE Task Force honors those who fight against elder abuse

"The SAVE Task Force observed the 8th Annual International Elder Abuse Awareness Day with its Courage Awards ceremony and presentation on Friday, June 7, at the Oakland County Commissioners' Auditorium in Pontiac.... A former prosecutor recognized with the Courage to Lead individual award in 2011, Oakland County 44th District Court Judge Derek Meinecke gave the keynote speech at the event."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Street Outreach Court marks first anniversary

"Street Outreach Court Detroit (SOCD) is hosting a 'One-Year Anniversary Celebration' on Tuesday, June 25, at 2 p.m. at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1264 Meldrum in Detroit. Wayne County 36th District Court Judge Cylenchia LaToye Miller was one of the founders of the program and is proud of what it has accomplished."

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Court says police are protected from lawsuits; Precedent set in drummer arrest case

"The Michigan Supreme Court has issued an opinion stating executive immunity bars former Port Sanilac Police Chief Rodney Jaskowski from being sued for forcefully arresting a drummer in July 2008. The opinion was released Thursday and essentially closes the case."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Oakland County Legal News: Supreme Court says police chief immune

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Legislation will overhaul Michigan's flawed indigent defense system (includes a 13:14 minute podcast)

"... After decades of failed efforts to reform the system, both the state Senate and House sent bipartisan bills on Wednesday to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk that would offer some concrete changes. Thomas Boyd is Chief Judge of the 55th District Court and an advocate for indigent defense reform. He explains what changes the overhaul could bring and why they're important."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Ingham County Legal News: State Bar heralds legislative passage of indigent criminal defense reform

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Jackson County Legal News.

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Locals skeptical over push to overhaul indigent defense

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Not everyone wants overhaul of indigent defense system

[Full story](#)